

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 22, 2006.

Following the amendments above, claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,101,515 to Wical *et al* ("Wical").

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 12, 15, 20, 23, 31, and 34, and added new claims 39 and 40. No new matter is added by these amendments, and support may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

I. § 102(b) – Claims 1-38 – Wical

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wical.

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Because Wical does not disclose "wherein the relationship comprises a lateral bond" as recited in amended claim 1, Wical does not anticipate claim 1. Wical discloses a hierarchical tree for categorizing terms. However Wical does not disclose lateral bonds between terms within the hierarchical tree. Thus, Wical does not anticipate claim 1.

Like claim 1, amended claim 20 recites "wherein the relationship comprises a lateral bond." Wical does not anticipate claim 20 for at least the same reason that Wical does not anticipate claim 1.

Similar to claims 1 and 20, amended claims 12 and 31 recite "wherein the relationship comprises a lateral bond." Wical does not anticipate claims 12 and 31 for at least the same reasons that Wical does not anticipate claims 1 and 20.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 12, 20, and 31. Because claims 2-11, 13-19, 21-30, and 31-38 depend from and further

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limit claims 1, 12, 30, and 13, Wical does not anticipate claims 2-11, 13-19, 21-30, and 31-38 for at least the same reasons. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-11, 13-19, 21-30, and 31-38.

CONCLUSION

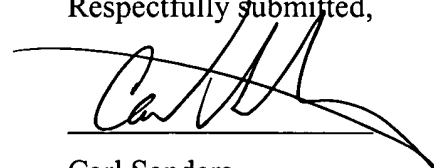
Applicant respectfully asserts that in view of the amendments and remarks above, all pending claims are allowable and Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, or suggestions of a nature necessary to expedite the prosecution of the application, or to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is courteously requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Date: January 22, 2007

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Sanders', is written over a horizontal line.

Carl Sanders
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